

FieldStrength

Publication for the Philips MRI Community

Issue 36 – December 2008

Shoulder coil enables more consistent imaging on Panorama HFO



This article is part of
Field Strength issue 36,
Dec. 2008

PHILIPS

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Dedicated shoulder coil complements the open MRI capabilities of Panorama in patients of all sizes

Munson Community Health Center (Traverse City, Michigan, USA) began using the Philips Panorama High Field Open (HFO) MR scanner in April 2008. Since then, it has made a difference in the lives of patients from all over the state of Michigan, who no longer have to travel long distances with overnight stays to be scanned. And the recent addition of the Philips ST Shoulder coil (Shoulder coil 1TSH), helps create high quality images.

After years with conventional MR units at Munson Medical Center and a mobile unit at Munson Community Health Center, the addition of the Panorama HFO has enabled the Center to scan more patients than before. Many hospitals in northern Michigan refer patients to the Center because they don't have the ability to scan large patients. The Center now performs about 70 scans each week for a variety of MR scanning. And since it's an open MRI, patients are much more comfortable than in a closed bore scanner.

"The Panorama is definitely an asset to our community," says Patricia Romberg, R.T. (R) (MR). "Now we can reach out to a much broader geographic area." Traverse City is located in northern Michigan, so the Panorama is now accessible to residents in that region who previously had to travel to larger facilities in the southern part of the state.

"We can scan many more large patients with the Panorama," Ms. Romberg adds. "They are so grateful. Many were unable to get an MRI exam previously, because they couldn't fit into closed bore scanners."

The Panorama HFO has not only increased the comfort level of large patients, but those who are claustrophobic as well. At Munson, the scanner is near a window, through which patients can see the trees and flowers outside the facility.

It's also a boon to pediatric patients and their parents and caregivers, Ms. Romberg says. "Because of the open aperture of the Panorama, pediatric patients can actually have a loved one very close to them during the scan. That comforts both the child and the parent."

ST Shoulder coil offers ease of use, strong signal

The new ST Shoulder coil (Shoulder coil 1TSH) has added value to Munson's use of the Panorama. "It's easier to use on shoulders than the Multi-Purpose (Flex) M coil and it's more comfortable for the patients," Ms. Romberg explains. "The patients just lie down and the cup molds right onto their shoulders. When we used the loop coils, we used sandbags to hold them in place so we didn't lose



Todd Kennell, M.D. and Patricia Romberg, R.T. with the new shoulder coil.

“The new dedicated shoulder coil provides a very good, homogeneous signal intensity throughout the shoulder, and much more reproducible imaging for different sized patients.”

any signal. With the new dedicated shoulder coil, the fit is better and the signal is much stronger; the quality of the images is vastly improved.”

Radiologist Todd Kennell, M.D., agrees: “The new shoulder coil is significantly better for us and for our patients. We have a very good, homogeneous signal intensity throughout the shoulder, and much more reproducible imaging for different sized patients.

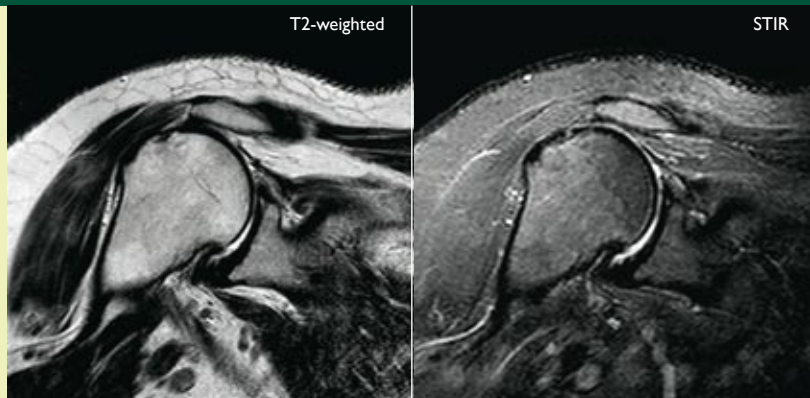
When we were using the Multi-Purpose Flex coil with some of our larger patients, we couldn’t always get the coil in the right spot, and I didn’t want to water down the protocol.”

Now, however, the dedicated shoulder coil provides high quality, reproducible images for the majority of Munson’s patients. The Center recently added the ST Knee coil (Knee coil 1.0T) as well, which has provided very good knee images. “We’re very happy with the new knee coil,” Dr. Kennell says. “The images from the Panorama with this knee coil are comparable to our 1.5 Tesla imaging.”

Overall, the two new Philips coils have impressed the staff at Munson. “You click them on the patient and they’re in the proper place,” says Dr. Kennell. “We’ve got good techs and they do a great job; this just makes the images so much more clear and reproducible.”

Rotator cuff tear with ST Shoulder coil

A 63-year-old male presented with chronic shoulder pain. The MR images show full thickness rotator cuff tear with retraction of the supraspinatus tendon. Use of the dedicated ST Shoulder coil (Shoulder coil 1TSH) allowed to reduce slice thickness from 4.1 mm to 3.5 mm in the same scan time and significantly increasing SNR.



Supraspinatus muscle tear with ST Multi-Purpose coil

A 68-year-old man presented with shoulder pain after falling on ice two weeks ago. MR images show edema throughout the supraspinatus muscle, with an intact rotator cuff. Partial tear of supraspinatus muscle is diagnosed. With the ST Multi-Purpose (Flex) M coil the images are diagnostic, but have less SNR than is desirable.

